

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

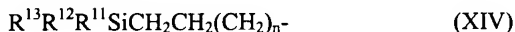
Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-34 (cancelled)

Claim 35 (currently amended): An oligomer or polymer of a saccharide bearing one or more pendant electrophilic moieties or nucleophilic moieties, wherein the electrophilic or nucleophilic moieties are linked to said saccharide via one or more ether, carbamate, ester, or ~~imino~~ amino linkages, and wherein the saccharide is fully functionalized.

Claim 36 (original): The oligomer or polymer of claim 35, wherein the electrophilic moieties are silyl moieties having at least one readily hydrolysable group attached to the silicon atom.

Claim 37 (currently amended): The oligomer or polymer of claim ~~35~~ 36, wherein the silyl moieties are groups of the formula (XIV):



wherein each of R^{11} , R^{12} and R^{13} is an alkyl group or an alkoxy group of up to 6 carbon atoms, an aryl or aryloxy wherein the aryl moiety is a phenyl or α - or β -naphthyloxy group or a halogen atom provided that at least one of R^{11} , R^{12} and R^{13} is a readily hydrolysable group, and n is a number in the range of from 1 to 20.

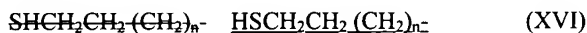
Claim 38 (original): The oligomer or polymer of claim 35, wherein the electrophilic moieties are groups are groups of the formula (XV):



where Y is iodide, bromide, chloride, a tosylate, a mesylate, or a triflate, and n is a number in the range of from 1 to 20.

Claim 39 (original): The oligomer or polymer of claim 35, wherein the nucleophilic moieties are thiol groups.

Claim 40 (currently amended): The oligomer or polymer of claim 39, wherein the thiol groups are of the formula (XVI):



and n is a number in the range of from 1 to 20.

Claims 41-42 (cancelled).

Claim 43 (new): The oligomer or polymer of claim 35, wherein the electrophilic or nucleophilic moieties are linked to the saccharide via one or more ether linkages.

Claim 44 (new): The oligomer or polymer of claim 35, wherein the electrophilic or nucleophilic moieties are linked to the saccharide via one or more amino linkages.

Claim 45 (new): The oligomer or polymer of claim 35, wherein the saccharide is glucose.

Claim 46 (new): The oligomer or polymer of claim 45, wherein the oligomer or polymer of glucose is cellulose.

Claim 47 (new): The oligomer or polymer of claim 45, wherein the oligomer or polymer of glucose is amylose.

Claim 48 (new): The oligomer or polymer of claim 45, wherein the oligomer or polymer of glucose is a cyclodextrin.

Claim 49 (new): The oligomer or polymer of claim 45, wherein the oligomer or polymer of glucose is β -cyclodextrin.

Claim 50 (new): The oligomer or polymer of claim 45, wherein the oligomer or polymer of glucose is α -cyclodextrin.

Claim 51 (new): The oligomer or polymer of claim 45, wherein the oligomer or polymer of glucose is γ -cyclodextrin.

Claim 52 (new): The oligomer or polymer of claim 45, wherein the linkage is to the 6-carbon atom of the glucose moiety.

Claim 53 (new): The oligomer or polymer of claim 45, wherein the linkage is to the 2-carbon atom of the glucose moiety.

Claim 54 (new): The oligomer or polymer of claim 45, wherein the linkage is to the 3-carbon atom of the glucose moiety.

Claim 55 (new): A conjugate comprising an oligomer or polymer of a saccharide according to claim 35, linked to a support material via the electrophilic moieties or nucleophilic moieties.

Claim 56 (new): The conjugate of claim 55, wherein the support material and the oligomer or polymer of a saccharide are linked by one or more linkers which comprise a group of the formula (I):



between the saccharide and the support material, the group A being attached to the support material, and the group B being attached to the saccharide:

wherein A is $-S$, $-S(O)$, $-S(O)_2$ or ---Si ;

B is O, NH, a carbamate group, or an ester group, and n is a number in the range of from 1 to 20.

Claim 57 (new): The conjugate of claim 55, wherein the hydroxyl groups of the saccharide, which are not linked to the support material, are functionalized to form alkoxy groups, aryloxy groups, arylalkyloxy groups, ester groups, carbamate groups, carbonate groups, phosphinate groups, phosphonate groups, phosphate groups, sulfinatate groups, sulfite groups, sulfonate groups or sulphate groups.

Claim 58 (new): The conjugate of claim 55, wherein the support material is selected from the group consisting of silica gel, Al_2O_3 , TiO_2 , ZrO_2 and synthetic porous functional organic polymers.

Claim 59 (new): The conjugate of claim 55, wherein the support material is silica gel.